

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S  
PRESS CONFERENCE

May 8, 1963

SUBJECT: Free World Shipping to Cuba

QUESTION: What is the U.S. doing about the increase in free  
world ships going to Cuba?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

According to the list maintained by the Maritime Adminis-  
tration, a total of 63 ships registered in nations outside the  
Sino-Soviet bloc have made one or more trips to Cuba since  
January 1 of this year. (Four Polish ships also appear on the  
Maritime Administration list.) We are concerned about the  
increase in the number of free world ships in the Cuban trade  
since the low point in January. Some of the increase is  
related to the seasonal export of the sugar harvest; a number of  
ships have arrived in ballast (empty) for this purpose. Al-  
though all free world shipping to Cuba in the first four months  
of 1963 is less than one-fourth of the amount in the first third  
of 1962, we are not content with the present situation and are  
discussing this subject with the governments concerned.